

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NAMIBIA AND SECURITY COUNCIL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR SCALI
IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE, FOLLOWING DEFEAT OF NAMIBIA RESOLUTION
EVENING JUNE 6.

QUOTE

MR PRESIDENT:

ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE VOTED "NO" ON DRAFT
RESOLUTION S/11713 WITH GRAVE RELUCTANCE AND CONCERN. THE
POWER OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO
CAST A VETO IS A RIGHT --THAT MUST BE EXERCISED AFTER THE MOST
CAREFUL AND SOLEMN CONSIDERATION. INDEED, THIS OCCASION MARKS
ONLY THE SEVENTH TIME IN THE TWENTY-NINE YEAR HISTORY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS FOUND IT
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NECESSARY TO DO SO.

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION
IN NAMIBIA, HOWEVER ILLEGAL, HOWEVER UNACCEPTABLE TO THE INTER-

NATIONAL COMMUNITY, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY OF THE STATES REPRESENTED AROUND THE SECURITY COUNCIL TABLE HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW. BUT WE ARE OBLIGED TO MAKE OUR OWN CAREFUL ESTIMATE OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE THAT EXIST AND TO ACT ACCORDINGLY WITHIN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH ALL OF US HAVE PLEDGED TO UPHOLD. AS I SAID ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES IN MY OPENING STATEMENT JUNE 3, WE CAN NOT ACCEPT A VIEW THAT THERE EXISTS A THREAT TO THE PEACE IN NAMIBIA IN A SITUATION WHERE, THE WRONGDOER, SOUTH AFRICA, HAS OFFERED, EVEN IF IN TERMS NOT ENTIRELY TO OUR LIKING, TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ORGANIZED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THE OBJECTIVE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR NAMIBIA.

THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PRAISEWORTHY EFFORTS OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN SEEKING TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION WHICH ALL MEMBERS COULD HAVE SUPPORTED. THESE DELEGATIONS SOUGHT OVER MANY HOURS TO POINT THE WAY FOR THIS COUNCIL TO ADOPT PRACTICAL MEASURES TO ADVANCE THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE IN NAMIBIA. THE GOAL OF A RESOLUTION WHICH UNHAPPILY NEVER WAS TABLED, COULD, IN OUR VIEW, HAVE LED TO VISIBLE PROGRESS RATHER THAN A DEBATE ENDING IN DISPUTE AND DEADLOCK. MY DELEGATION IS GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED THAT THESE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE MIDDLE WAY HAVE FAILED.

IN THIS SITUATION WE FEEL COMPELLED TO ASK WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE INABILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO TAKE THE EFFECTIVE ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TODAY? ONCE AGAIN, IN CONTRAST TO THE USEFULNESS OF THE COUNCIL'S UNANIMITY IN THE CASE OF RESOLUTION 366, WE HAVE TODAY YIELDED TO THE LURE OF RHETORIC, WHICH SHOULD NEVER BE MISTAKEN FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION IN THE REAL WORLD.

WHO WILL FIND COMFORT IN THE FAILURE OF THIS COUNCIL? CERTAINLY NOT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS A LONG RECORD OF WORKING FOR UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION THAT NAMIBIA IS A SERIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLEMN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

AS I SAID IN MY SPEECH TUESDAY, THE UNITED STATES FOR TWELVE LONG YEARS HAS FOLLOWED A POLICY OF BANNING ALL ARMS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAVE DONE SO VOLUNTARILY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE-- DELIBERATELY --TO AVOID ENCOURAGING PRETORIA TO THINK THE UNITED STATES WILL SACRIFICE NATIONAL PRINCIPLE FOR MILITARY OR FINANCIAL GAIN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO UPHOLD PRINCIPLE. WE PRAY WE HAVE NOT LOST MOMENTUM IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE IN SOUTHER AFRICA.

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